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htos1

08-02-2009 07:28 AM

## I Will Never Forget You

My Time With DebZ1-Debora Zydalis

by: Htos1

The first time I remember seeing Debby was in summer 1996. I was operating mains and monitor sound for a Jacksonville, FL band called "The Marauders". Debby had come to the beach, that day, to check out the band and the crowd. She distinctly stood out from the crowd because of her auburn colored hair, striking freckles and she was wearing a white sun dress that showed every perfect curve of her smooth body (I apologize, this is a family oriented website). As usual, it was a great gig with those guys and I just loved watching Deb and all the ladies dance up front by the stage. The next time I saw Debby was late fall of that year when the same band played a club that was literally blocks from Debs place. Again, I was just awestruck by her countenance when she came out to the dance floor, the colored lights making her look even more exotic. It must have been obvious to everyone (my feelings) as Lori (the sax players' girlfriend) proceeded to introduce us. (YES!) :) Not that I couldn't walk up to her and introduce myself, but I don't generally mix business and pleasure, and I shouldn't leave the lights, mixers, and racks unsupervised in that environment.

We enjoyed the usual first meeting talk and it was for sure we would be friends at the very least, she was very intelligent and was really curious in working the boards and lights. She told me about the love of her life, her son Christopher. Then he was just eight years old and a master at Legos and other building toys and such, and very intelligent, like his Mom. After the show, I didn't have to break down the stage that night, so Debby invited me to her place for a drink, we found out we loved the same song from Foreigner - from way back - cool, and to meet Chris (I was a perfect gentleman, trust me, I wasn't going to blow it). We talked 'til dawn when Chris awakened and I got to meet him and then Debby took me to my place as I had traveled with the band equipment that previous night.

From this point on, Debby was a great friend and companion and she liked ME! Spring of 1997 arrived and had come news that the same band mentioned earlier had earned a coveted house job in Jacksonville Bch. FL and that I would be working all I wanted with them again. When I told Deb the good news she looked me squarely in the eye and asked if she could work with me onstage professionally. What am I going to do, say no? No! She then proceeded to floor me by knowing EXACTLY in order how to set up the equipment, run cables, lights, everything. She had obviously watched me intently those last few months. She trimmed about two hours off the top of setup time, it was awesome. Needless to say our friendship was on the brink of relationship. I took a risk of mixing business and pleasure and you just don't know how glad I am that I did. We worked together like this for four years, about three days a week on average and then would go out to dinner and movies, check out our friends' bands, etc. after a full days work. At this time I really wanted to ask Debby for her hand officially and she told me she wanted that too, but that there may be a price I wouldn't like. I immediately thought that she was going to say she wanted to date others or she could never love anyone again since Chris' father. She wouldn't tell me what it was, but she proved to me that day that our relationship was a loving one and that she thought I was her soul mate, but that I must accept whatever fate hands us. I was a little concerned but I didn't push the issue as it was her only area of privacy she didn't share, and I respected that. It was a great relationship and Chris grew from a little boy to young man overnight it seemed and he was unrelenting in wanting to know everything technical, of course by this time I had built Deb and Chris a computer from my earlier rig and they both took to computing like fish to water or birds to flight, or something like that. My birthday on Sept. 10, 1998 was just about the best time I've ever had. Deb, Chris, and the staff at the Crab Pot restaurant (luv 'ya Beth, Connie, & Marc) had planned a surprise party for me all week long since I'd be working out on the deck that Thursday evening. Just into the first set of music, the guys did the usual birthday song we always did for patrons, but it was my turn! And then Beth announced \$.99 drinks all night for my birthday. I got the best birthday card I've ever received from, of course, Deb and Chris, with almost a hundred signatures on it from all the staff, the guys, all our regular friends (and some irregulars :)). I also received three propositions - yes! That kind! That was a fantastic night.

Spring of 1999 arrived and I was ready for another year on the road, hanging w/ the regulars and enjoying the music biz types when the guys played. This is when I started to notice that Deb was a little thin in her face, and she just didn't seem to have the same strength as she did previously. Then came the difficulty in eating for her, no, not anorexia, or a disorder like that, trust me, she enjoyed a steak dinner as much as I did. I know, and she never had to leave the table like those types do, either. At this time, I finally asked Deb to tell me what's going on, I think I deserve to know now, I loved her. Well, one should be careful what they wish for, too - that's when Deb told me she was terminally ill. I just couldn't believe it, not her, not sweet Debby! She has a child, that's not fair! No, I just won't believe it! It's not for real. Debby then had to move well over 75 miles away that summer to her Mom's and her sisters' house in central Florida because she was so weak. I would travel to see her every other weekend there, it was heartbreaking, but the good news was that it was a boys paradise there for Chris, lots of kids, animals, and space to

room.After one year though,I knew Debby was longing for our relationshipand I hated being alone.

Fate managed to strike hard but I got to soften the blow in summer 2000,when at a band rehearsal,a longtime guitarist friend (Erik)told me he was going to his place and tell his landlord that he was moving,I stayed glued to him that evening and not only did I get the house for Deb,BUT the landlord would NOT charge her rent there.I swear before God in Heaven that this is true.It was five minutes from my house,and ten minutes from the beach,too!! moved her in right away and she proceeded to make her home like she had been there all her life.Everyone was just amazed at what she did to this place,we even had before and after pics due to some band pics I shot when it was basically a band house(If 6Was 9-Fernandina,Fl),they showed an amazing transformation.I setup a stereo,had satellite tv installed,made many infrastructure improvements for her,made sure Deb got into town and such,and made darn sure she ate as well as she could.

Our last date was in April,2001,when we went out for dinner in Fernandina,Fl.I had just received word that I would be living on the road again starting in May.I had a pt side job with a freight company due to my truck experience and moving large amounts of stage gear.It was extremely hard work but paid well and I was near Debby every day.Debby would have none of that!She told me that I should continue working onstage and that Chris could watch out for her while I'm gone.So I moved back to Jacksonville to get this band off the ground and they were quite good and still work to this day full time(one of the few of our generation of music).My birthday came that Sept.10th and we had my favorite dinner at her home,kosher hot dogs w/five different toppings,a buffet of all kinds of munchies,and plenty of German and English beer.I also spent the night there since I was going to take Regina(Debs' Mom)to Jacksonville that next day to attend to some personal business.I was at a legal firm that fateful morning of Sept.11,2001.I just couldn't believe what was happening,I had to rush down to the car radio as no one had a television in the offices.Later,when we got back to town,Debby looked at me later and said"This is rather serious".Debby understood the the Masonic,Templar roots of our country,and what it means.This day must have impacted her more so than you or me.I will always cherish those last few days and the smile on her face when I would "kidnap" her and take her home,away from the cold,uncaring hospice care facilities.

My beautiful,sweet Debby passed away peacefully 25 days later on Oct. 6th,2001.Victor,Regina ,Peggy, and her brothers lost the baby of their family,Christopher lost his mother when he was at a critical stage of growing up and finding himself.I lost my best friend,my woman,my better half,my helper,my unrequited love,my only chance of having a real wife who'd love,trust,and respect me unconditionally.

From that point forward,I 've seldom worked on or near a stage,nor done any serious production work,my heart isn't there anymore.So now I only care to pursue A+ engineering.

Please wait up for me sweetheart,I'll catch up with you at the backstage door in Heaven!

MissyVenom

08-02-2009 07:34 AM

Oh this had me nearly crying like a baby..

So beautifully written.. thank you for sharing this with us.

Rip pretty lady.  
x

lildan69us

08-02-2009 07:37 AM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **MissyVenom** (Post 604429)  
*Oh this had me nearly crying like a baby..*

*So beautifully written.. thank you for sharing this with us.*

*Rip pretty lady.*  
x

well said missyv...

htos1

08-02-2009 07:37 AM

Thank you

Thank you missy,I SOOO miss Debby,she was beautiful AND a geeky girl,I couldn't ask for more.You can see more of her here:

<http://bellsouthpwp.net/h/t/htos1/debzipix.htm>

JudyV

08-02-2009 08:40 AM

I had no tears until the end. Then they sprung up unexpectedly. Lovely, and so sad!

htos1

08-05-2009 12:20 PM

**Thank You JudyV**

Thanks for the kind words,Deb would be pleased.I wrote this from the heart as I have no formal training in journalism or authorship in any way.I hope I am able to convey the feelings we had for each other and for you to enjoy feeling that as well.

Jeff

justpeachy

08-06-2009 02:56 AM

A true love story...so sweet and so sad.

jenva

11-18-2009 04:04 PM

The power of love.

kmmouse

01-05-2010 03:10 PM

Beautiful htos!

I hope you find peace.... a love like this does last forever! Deb will always be with you!

htos1

01-29-2011 04:21 PM

1 Attachment(s)

Hey,I just wanted to update my posting here.I heard from Deb's son,Christopher,for the first time since 2001,he's an awesome young man.He's married,has a daughter,and completed a tour overseas in the naval service.I know your Mom is proud.as am I.

The\_Fly\_UK

02-11-2011 01:38 PM

feel for you htos

htos1

04-25-2011 02:54 PM

**Haunting**

1 Attachment(s)

Going through my video archives I found this two second clip of Debby,my God I miss her!Here is a great profile pic of her,I will be posting my memorial for her in October.

chickadee2

04-25-2011 03:39 PM

That was beautiful.. Brought tears to my eyes...RIP

the demon

04-25-2011 03:48 PM

my deepest respects go out

SoDaYaBaSS

09-02-2011 04:33 AM

Deepest sympathies mate.

RIP your dearest Debby.

htos1

09-22-2011 09:29 PM

1 Attachment(s)

Just got this id that my Babe had while in college.You can see why we fit together so perfectly and she became a roadie in the band.Quiet,smart,geeky,dedicated women are few and far between,and she gave a lifetime of memories in just five very short years together.

Thanks to everyone for the kind words,October marks ten years since I lost her.It also means it's ten years closer to when we're back together.It means a LOT that Chris would let me have this.

htos1

01-21-2012 05:09 AM

My almost last posting for Debby.Here's a YT [video](#) of Debby and me working for the Marauders in 1997.During the height of our relationship.This video has many tasty samples of local music,scenes,and characters.You even see my "compound" where I had my workshop and infrastructure used in street level,working music outfits.This was posted in celebration of Deb's birthday,but be sharp,she's VERY shy and doesn't let me have more than a second or two at most,of her on video.

As a tease,I have Jaimoe,drummer of the Allman Bros.Band,sitting in @ [25:10](#) mark.

The\_evil\_one

01-21-2012 05:50 AM

Bittersweet. RIP.

BlueShift27

01-21-2012 05:53 AM

Wow...just wow. . What a wonderful women your wife must have been. What a wonderful man you must be!

htos1

02-24-2012 07:36 AM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **BlueShift27** (Post 1460662)

*Wow...just wow. . What a wonderful women your wife must have been. What a wonderful man you must be!*

She was,yes.Me?Well,that will still have to be determined.:wink:

Here's Debby doing sound for a VERY local band,using the JBL sound system we had(finally got the vid from the Marauders).

<http://youtu.be/VpzpNP-4rpo>

marinemom

02-24-2012 09:38 AM

Thank you for sharing that.

All times are GMT -5. The time now is 02:03 AM.